



Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Crime Prevention Unit



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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Important Numbers:

- * **Emergency 911**
- * **Non-Emergency**
703-777-1021
703-777-0445
- * **Poison Control**
1-800-222-1222
- * **Animal Control**
703-777-0406
- * **Sheriff's Office Admin**
703-771-0407
- * **Narcotic Tip Line**
703-779-0552
- * **Crime Solvers**
703-777-1919

Issue 8

May 1, 2009

County Solicitor Regulations

We are again entering the season where we will see an increase in solicitors in our area. In many cases these businesses are legitimate and are providing their customers a service. In other cases these businesses are less than scrupulous and use high pressure sales tactics and intimidation to make sales.

All solicitors that operate inside the county are required to register with the Sheriff's Office. As part of this registration a background check is completed

and information on the employer is obtained. Through this process, anyone approved to solicit is issued an identification card showing that they are a registered solicitor. (See Pictures). All solicitors are required to display, and upon request, provide the solicitors permit to any person that they are soliciting for businesses.

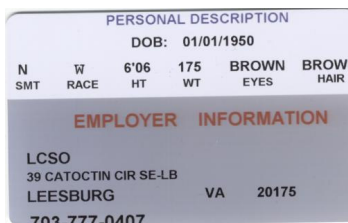
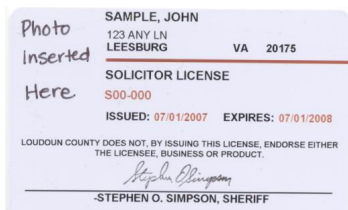
In addition to registering and tracking solicitors this process also holds solicitors to a code of conduct. Should a solicitor violate this code of conduct then their privileges would be revoked and they will not be au-

thorized to solicit within Loudoun County for a period of one year.

This code of conduct can be found online at:

www.loudoun.gov

Any person witnessing a violation of this code of conduct, encounters a solicitor who refuses to provide their county issued solicitor's permit, or does not have a permit should contact the Sheriff's Office at the non-emergency number immediately. Deputies will follow up and check the area for the solicitor. If the case warrants, deputies have the option to issue a summons for a violation of the county ordinance.



Postal Mail and E-Mail Scams

It is typical at this time of year to see an increase in mail related scams. These scams come in many forms but the most common is generally the following scenario. The victim is contacted via e-mail or postal mail from an unknown per-

son who is seeking assistance in getting a large sum of money transferred to the United States. The victim is normally asked to pay the processing fee and then promised a percentage of the money. This is a long running scam and should

be reported to law enforcement. If you are contacted via postal mail reports can be made to the Postal Inspectors Service through your local post office. If you are solicited via e-mail please contact the Sheriff's Office to make a report.



Frequently Asked Questions

If you would like to have a question answered, please e-mail the question to Nathaniel.Payne@loudoun.gov or James.Spurlock@loudoun.gov

Thefts from Vehicles (69 occurrences in April)

Loudoun County residents are still having items stolen from their vehicles. The most common items taken include GPS units, small electronics and money. Some ways to help prevent this are:

1. Remove all items from your vehicle when not in use. When you cannot do this, put the items inside the glove box (lockable ones are preferred).
2. A visible GPS unit is an obvious target, but car prowlers also look for any signs that one might be hidden inside the vehicle, such as a mount on the window or dashboard. Even the circle left on the windshield from a suction cup mount is enough for some crooks to break in. They assume a GPS unit is hidden somewhere inside. So get rid of all tell-tale signs.

3. Park inside your garage, if available, and keep the garage locked. Try to park near or under an illuminated area.

4. **KEEP YOUR VEHICLE LOCKED.** Most stolen items are taken from vehicles that are not locked.

If your vehicle is broken into report it to the Sheriff's Office. It is also helpful to have the serial numbers of the stolen items available when the deputies arrive.

County wide this is the most frequent criminal event. To help combat this ongoing issue please report suspicious persons you may see in and around your neighborhood.

Larceny from Vehicles 2009:

January: 86

February: 120

March: 103

April: 69

Spring Cleaning and Residential Security

With warmer weather upon us, soon we will be tasked with the weekly yard work and maintenance. Please remember the following tips to help keep your home safe from burglars.

- 1: Bushes and shrubs should not be allowed to grow higher than 24 inches or higher than the lower ledge of a first floor window.

- 2: A well kept yard is a deterrent for burglars. Try to keep grass mowed and bushes trimmed.

- 3: Check outside lights to make sure they are working properly.

- 4: Keep larger trees limbs from hanging below six feet from the ground. You want your house to be visible by your neighbors so they can call in

suspicious persons they may see around your house.

- 5: Lastly and most important, get out and get to know your neighbors. A trusted relationship with a few neighbors goes a long way in keeping your community safe.

Upcoming events

May 13, 2009: 7PM: Central District Public Safety Meeting

May 16, 2009: 8 AM: Shred Event in Sugarland Run

May 19, 2009: 7 PM: Eastern District Public Safety Meeting

May 21, 2009: 7PM: Intro to Policing- Lansdowne Community

May 21, 2009: 730PM: Lenah Farms NW Start-up

May 27, 2009: 700PM Avonlea NW Start-up

May 28, 2009: 630PM Kirkpatrick Farms NW Start-up

June 2, 2009: 700PM Basic Computer Safety for Parents